TL 1133

The Activities Report of IFET Members with Special Focus on the Past Two Years and the Budget of the IFET

May 1991

Introduction

The International Federation for East Timor came into being in April 1991 when all participating NGOs agreed unanimously to join this international organization proposed at the 11the Consultative Meeting on East Timor in Lisbon. It was in fact the formalization of an already existing network of these organizations. There had existed for long a coordination among the NGOs in the form of annual consultative meetings (in Europe), joint meetings (in New York) and joint activities at the UN Human Rights Commissions and Sub-commissions. At these meetings joint statements were adopted and many decisions were taken to coordinate activities on a national and international levels.

The member NGOs have worked actively on information gathering and dissemination on the question of East Timor and related national and international events through their respective newsletters, publications and other measures. As grass roots NGOs, we have always tried to develop unique and creative ways of disseminating information from 'restaurant campaign' to 'e-mail conference'.

We have vigorously communicated our concerns to relevant authorities about the question in which occasions we always stressed the importance of the UN principles and expressed full support to the good offices of the UN Secretary-General.

Almost all member NGOs have sent one or more petitioners to the Special Committee on Decolonization in August every year. Some members have attended the Human Rights Commission and Sub-commision in Geneva.

Among the member NGOs recently there has been a marked interest in the legal arguments surrounding the question of East Timor. This tendency is represented in some recent publications of member NGOs on the UN resolutions.

Below this the activities of leading NGOs are summarised.

1. Japanese group: Free East Timor Japan Coalition

The Free East Timor Japan Coalition consists of 9 East Timor concern groups and the Japan Catholic Council for Justice and Peace. The Coalition holds its national meeting four times a year to make decisions on various kinds of national and international programs. The followings are the main programs carried out in the past several years.

(1) Publications

a. The Kure YWCA's quarterly *East Timor Communications* with the circulation of 1000 functions as a national-level newsletter on East Timor, while most groups have their own newsletter distributed to local members. The Osaka group's newsletter has a circulation of 300. All these newsletters contain reports on relevant activities of the UN.

b. A one-hundred page book on East Timor's decolonization written by Coalition members and published by the Osaka group is widely read and sold through all the groups as a book of the national network. Two thousands copies were already sold out.

c. In 1986 the book *The War against East Timor* was translated into Japanese by the Osaka group

under the supervision of Mr. Ohtori Kurino, the IFET's President, and published by the Ariesu Shobo Publisher, Co., Ltd. Two thousands copies were already sold out. In 1987 CIIR's *East Timor: A Christian Reflection* was translated and published by the Japan Catholic Council for Justice and Peace. In 1989 another CIIR's book on East Timor was translated into Chinese and publicized by the Kure group in order to disseminate information to Chinese speaking communities.

d. In 1989 the book *A Big War on a Small Island* was edited by the Amnesty International Japan Branch in cooperation with the Osaka group and published by the Daisan Shokan Publisher, Co., Ltd. About the half of the chapters were written by Coalition members.

e. In 1990 the Coalition published a summary of the General Assembly's resolutions adopted in the past on the question of East Timor.

f. In March 1991 the Coalition published *A Report on the Human Rights Violations in East Timor: September - December 1990* .

(2) Activities to Raise Awareness

Slides, videos, photo exibit sets, music cassettes were made by member groups and widely used in public meetings, lectures, exhibits and concerts organized by member groups. The Coalition participated in three joint exhibits on human rights sponsored by the Seibu Department Stores in Tokyo, Kawasaki and Ohtsu from 1986 to 1989.

(3) Speaking Tour

Since 1985 every year the Coalition has organized a speaking tour on East Timor. The tour covers more than 20 cities in about three weeks and brings thousands of the population direct contact with invited East Timorese. The tour is widely covered by both national and local media including newspapers, magazines and TV.

(4) Symposium

On October 6 1990 the first symposium on East Timor was held in Japan by the Special Symposium Executive Committee. The Coalition provided almost all needed expences and manpower.

On February 6 1991 Japan Catholic Council for Justice and Peace and Pax Christi International UN Representative held a seminar at the UN Church Center in commemoration of the Bishop Belo's petition to the UN Secretary-General dated February 6, 1989 calling for a referendum in East Timor.

(5) Fund Raising for Refugees and Education

a. The Coalition carries out daily fund raising activities for the refugee community in Darwin, Australia with the purpose of maintaining communication and distribution of information.

b. The Coalition carries out daily fund raising activities for a private course of Timorese culture and language for children of refugees in Darwin.

c. Japan Catholic Council for Justice and Peace carries out daily fund raising activities for mission school education in East Timor.

(6) Communications with Relevant Authorities

a. The Coalition participates in consultative meetings of human rights NGOs with the Division of Human Rights and Refugees of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the agenda of UN Human Rights Sub-commision and Human Rights Commission.

b. The Coalition participates in meetings of NGOs with the relevant sections of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs before the IGGI (Inter-Governmental Group on Indonesia) meeting to communicate NGOs' proposals and requests to the Ministry.

c. On December 7 1990 the Coalition organized a delegation together with representatives of Amnesty International Osaka Office, Diet Members Forum on East Timor (all-party forum on East Timor) and a peace group, which was received by the Indonesian Consul-General in Kobe. Concerns of the participant groups were communicated to the Indonesian government and views were exchanged.

d. The Coalition takes part in regular consultative meetings of human rights NGOs held in Tokyo.

(7) UN Special Committee on Decolonization

Since 1986 one or more petitioners are sent every year to the Special Committee on Decolonization.

(8) UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations

The Coalition, fully realizing the importance of the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations, has requested to the Japanese government to begin providing financial contribution to that Fund. At the end of 1990 the government decided for the first time to provide approximately two million dollars for it.

2. Portuguese Group: CDPM

The CDPM has its headquarter in Lisbon and a branch in Porto. Together with other East Timor groups in Portugal the CDPM is most actively engaged in information gathering from East Timor, through East Timorese channels. Information collected and disseminated by the CDPM is regarded highly valuable both by NGOs and the mass media. The CDPM has also been playing a significant role in raising awareness among the Portuguese population about the decolonization process of their own former colony. The followings are the main programs.

(1) Publications and Information Dissemination

a. The CDPM publishes a monthly bulletin *Informação Timor-Leste* which is a quick information service in Portugal.

b. The CDPM publishes a double-issue of the magazine *Funu* with stress on analysis and comprehensive accounts on events.

c. The CDPM in cooperation with another group A Paz é Passível em Timor Leste publishes *East*

Timor News, a monthly English news service which covers all aspects of the decolonization process of East Timor including events in the United Nations, Portugal, Indonesia and East Timor.

d. The CDPM holds press conferences occasionally. In 1990 two press conferences were held and both had a significant impact with one member interviewed by the national TV news for the first time.

(2) Shool Education Material

The CDPM produced two sets of mobile exhibitions for use in schools. Up to the present more than 60 schools have ordered a set to use it in their respective schools. This was a successful campaign in attracting young generations to the problem of decolonization of theri own former colony.

(3) UN

a. The CDPM sends a petitioner every year to the Special Committee on Decolonization.

b. The CDPM sends a representative to Geneva every year to attend the UN Human Rights Commission and Sub-commission to help Timorese petitioners.

(4) Communications with Relevant Authorities

The CDPM has regular communications with the Portuguese government and parliamentarians regarding the question of East Timor.

3. British Group: TAPOL Indonesia Human Rights Campaign

Although the problem of East Timor is not the only one issue TAPOL has been working on, East Timor work has been a priority for many years and is part of the daily activities of TAPOL. Since 1975, TAPOL has been vigorously collecting and spreading information on the issue.

(1) Information Gathering and Dissemination

a. In February 1991 TAPOL initiated an electronic mail conference specific on East Timor, called gn:reg.easttimor on the GreenNet, which could be reached through a computer by anyone from anywhere in the world. This is in fact the fastest information database on East Timor in the world.

b. TAPOL produced *Backgrounder on East Timor* in order to fulfill demands of the media about the basic knowledge on East Timor, which sprang up particularly after the Iraq's invasion of Kuweit. The *Backgrounder* was used in many publications.

(2) Publications

a. TAPOL publishes bimonthly *Tapol Bulletin* and events related to East Timor were reported in almost all issues. The circulation is about 1000. Articles in Tapol Bulletin are regarded very

valuable and are subscribed to not only by concerned individuals but also by academic institutions and human rights organizations.

b. TAPOL published its submission to the UN Special Committee on Decolonization in each year as Occasional Reports.

c. TAPOL published *UN Resolutions on East Timor 1975-1982* as its Occasional Report No. 14.

d. TAPOL members wrote a comprehensive book on the problem of East Timor: *The War against East Timor*, Zed Books, 1984. TAPOL published a book *East Timor and the Shaming of the West* in 1985.

(3) Seminars, Conferences

a. TAPOL, together with the Catholic Institute of International Relations, organized East Timor Consultation in London in March 1990.

b. TAPOL participated in the East Timor Conference at Oporto University in Portugal in April 1990 and presented a paper about "Prospects of Change in Indonesia."

c. TAPOL participated in the ASPAC Conference in Melbourne, Australia, in October 1990. TAPOL was also invited to speak at many other meetings in Australia about East Timor.

d. TAPOL participated in the NFIP (Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific) Conference in Auckland, New Zealand, in October 1990.

(4) UN

a. TAPOL attends at the Human Rights Commission and Sub-commission in Geneva every year.

b. TAPOL sends a petition at the Special Committee on Decolonization every year.

4. Dutch Group: Komitee Indonesië

The Komitee Indonesië has actively worked to raise awareness about the decolonization process of a territory with which the Netherlands also has historical ties.

(1) Publications

a. The Komitee publishes a quarterly *IFM - Indonesia Feiten en Meningen* which contains a wide range of news on the question of East Timor including activities of the UN.

b. The Komitee together with other two groups published *East Timor: to be liberated or to be exterminated, that's the question* in 1989. This 37-page book is a study of legal and political aspects of the question of East Timor with special focus on the principles of the UN.

c. The Komitee published *13 Jaar Strijd voor een Vrij Oost Timor* in 1988.

d. The Komitee published *Oost Timor Schreeuwt ..... Nederland medeplichtig* in 1983.

e. The Komitee translated and published the CIIR's booklet *I am Timorese* in 1990.

(2) Information Dissemination

Providing information to the media, academics, other organizations, parliamentarians and

individuals on East Tiomr is one of the Komitee's daily work. Members of the Komitee write articles for magazines.

(3) Seminar

The Komitee and other two human rights organizations in the Netherlands jointly organized a conference on human rights in Indonesia in Utrecht on 23 and 24 November 1990. The fourth workshop's theme was 'Self-determination' chaired by Prof. Baehr (Professor in Human Rights and Foreign Policy, Leiden University).

(4) Speaking Tour

In November 1990 the Komitee organized a speaking tour through the Netherlands inviting two East Timorese. Public meetings were held. During the speaking tour the Komitee also launched a 'Restaurant Campaign' in which several restaurants served Timorese cuisine.

(5) Signature Campaign

In 1990 the Komitee organized a national signature campaign on East Timor. About 10,000 signatures were gathered and handed over to the Parliament. The signature campaign had a positive impact on parliamentarians many of whom now began to take the issue more seriously.

(6) UN and European Parliament

a. The Komitee sends a petitioner every year to the Special Committee on Decolonization.
b. The Komitee communicates with Dutch European Parliament members regarding East Timor.

5. French Group: Agir Pour Timor

Agir Pour Timor (APT) is a new group established in September 1989. Since then it has actively disseminated information to the Portuguese community in France and the French population as well.

(1) Publications and Information Work

a. APT publishes irregularly its newsletter *Agir Pour Timor.*
b. APT members regularly write articles for Portuguese monthlies in France *Encontro* and *Publi Portugal.*
c. APT produced documents: *La fosse de Timor et l'accord australo-indonésien, Rappel sur l'invasion de Timor-Est par l'Indonésie, Timor-Est: quelques informations* and *A Timor-Est les ´éudiants risquent leur vie en manifestant* etc.
d. APT provides news for radio broadcast regularly.

(2) Seminars, Meetings, Exhibits

a. In October 1989 APT participated in *Manifestation sur le Parvis des Droits de l'Homme.*
b. In November 1989 APT contributed materials to a one-month exhibit at l'école des Beaux Arts

de Beauvais (Timor-Kurdistan-Afrique du Sud).

c. ATP participated in the fête de SOS-Racisme and a fête de Club Alfa in June 1990.

d. In November 1990 APT organized a debate evening with a local Amnesty International group.

(3) Communications

APT wrote letters to politicians and social figures to communicate its concerns regarding the problem of East Timor.

6. German Group: Gesellschaft für Bedrohte Volker

East Timor is one of the isssues the Gesellschaft für Bedrohte Volker (Society for Threatened Peoples) has been gravely concerned with.

In April 1990 the Society together with the Pacific Network organized a seminar on self-determination with special focus on East Timor. The seminar was attended by 60 people and was covered by some newspapers.

The Society has worked on the arms trade aspect of the problem. It succeeded in widely raising awareness on the question of arms trade when it proved that the Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm (MBB) had sent weapons to Iraq ignoring the international embargo. And again when it came to the conclusion that the MBB's BO 105 helicopters are also used in East Timor after a survey, it organized a manifestation in front of the MBB on 7 December 1990.

In March 1991 the Society held a panel discussion about 'Tourism vs. Human Rights' in connection with the International Tourist Fair in Berlin. The problem of East Timor was raised at the panel discussion.

7. Swedish Group: Östtimorkommittén

The Swedish committee is a specialized group on East Timor in Sweden and has been actively engaged in information dissemination. It recieves a yearly grant from the Swedish Development Aid Board (SIDA).

The Committee published a book on East Timor, *Det Glömda Kriget*, the translation of Amnesty International's report on East Timor and *East Timor --- Out of the Silence.*

The Committee produces a quarterly newsletter, *Östtimor - Information*, whose circulation is 1100. The newsletters were distributed to individuals and organizations free of charge.

The Committee drafted an article for the daily Dagens Nyheter in December which was signed by leaders of youth organizations of all parties in the parliament except one.

In 1987 the Committee organized a big photo exhibit campaign together with other organizations.

On 7 December 1990 the Committee organized a seminar on struggles and movements in Southeast Asia including that of East Timor.

Addresses of the member NGOs

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Budget of the IFET

The annual budget for the IFET Secretariat is approximately US$2,000. This budget is intended as postage, telephone and fax charges for communication. Funds for the budget are collected from member NGOs. When programs are organized, special budgets are arranged. IFET programs may be mandated to member NGOs including fund raising. Such a funding coordination becomes an important task for the IFET Secretariat.

All daily programs and activities are funded by respective member NGOs. The size of the whole activities of the IFET member NGOs is approximately US$118,000. Its breakdown by country is as follows: Japan $45,000; Portugal $20,000; UK $27,000; the Netherlands $7,500; Germany $10,000; Sweden $4,500; France $2,000; Spain $2,000. The presented budgets of some organizations which are not specialized only in East Timor show their approximate allocaiton for East Timor activities.